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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 004686

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/RSP/TC AND EB/TPP, STATE PASS AIT/W AND USTR,  
USTR FOR WINELAND AND WINTERS, USDOC FOR  
4431/ITA/MAC/AP/OPB/TAIWAN/MBMORGAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/23/2015

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [EAGR](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MOEA DM CHEN RESPONDS TO DOHA DEMARCHE, BEEF, TYCO  
AND COKE

REF: STATE 211956

Classified By: AIT Director Douglas Paal, reason 1.4 b/d

11. (C) Econ Chief delivered reftel points to Ministry of Economic Affairs Deputy Minister Steve Chen (Ruey-long). He took the occasion to raise Taiwan's continued ban on U.S. beef, the status of Tyco thermistor cases, Taiwan's opening to some types of chocolate imports from China and proposed labeling requirements for caffeinated beverages. Chen responded that Taiwan was very aggressive on opening to services and although had reservations about some Non-agricultural market access (NAMA) proposals, would do its best to go along. He noted that subjecting all NAMA products to the Swiss formula made it difficult for Taiwan in some sensitive areas. As a newly acceded member, Chen pressed for a special timeline for implementing any new commitments. He passed the buck to the Council of Agriculture (COA) on Taiwan's agricultural market access policy, offering that COA could see the momentum for agricultural liberalization but needed more time to prepare. Chen volunteered that Taiwan was still engaged in serious internal discussions and would probably not have a detailed position before December 12.

12. (C) AIT Econ Chief noted that Japan was likely to open its market to U.S. beef soon and that Taiwan's continued reluctance to do so was a sore point in our trade relationship. Chen responded that Japan was an important indicator for Taiwan and speculated that the Department of Health was being extra cautious after it had been heavily criticized for re-opening to U.S. beef in April, only to have to close again when another BSE case was reported. He opined that Taiwan would be quick to follow Japan's lead and re-open the market soon.

13. (C) In response to questions about how to best approach Taiwan Customs about cases regarding Tyco thermistor classification that had been referred to the judiciary for decision, Chen offered that some in Taiwan Customs were very unhappy about the reclassification of thermistors and implied that the Customs decision to refer these cases to the courts was a means of expressing their displeasure. He offered to continue to discuss the cases with Taiwan Customs Director General Yu Shao-wu to see if there was still a way to reach a negotiated settlement.

14. (U) AIT Econ Chief thanked Chen for his message that Taiwan would open its market to some types of unfilled chocolate imports from China and noted that there was a proposal to require health warnings on labels of some caffeinated beverages that could have a negative impact on Coca-cola or other soft drinks. Chen was not familiar with the proposed regulations but volunteered to check with the Department of Health.  
Paal